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MARIANO BONAPARTE SOARES, 48 years of age, born in Manatuto, resident of Dili, son of the late Joaquim Bonaparte Soares and Alda da Costa Oliveira. During the period of Portuguese colonial administration, I was an official of the Dili Municipality (4/4/65 - 11/8/75), joined ASDT/Fretilin on 21/5/74, was an activist from the first days of the party being founded, and was subsequently elected as member of the Fretilin Central Committee and held the post of Vice-Secretary until 7 December, 1975 - the fateful day of ABRI's (Indonesian Armed Forces) invasion of East Timor.

On 19 December, 1975, I was captured by the Indonesian Armed Forces and held in the Tropical jail, formerly a warehouse belonging to the Sang Tai Hoo company, and behind the Tropical Hotel, and one the 14th April 1976 I was transferred to Comarca prison together with over 600 prisoners (among them, men, women and children). I was released on 15 June, 1977 on the condition that I report weekly to the Dili District Military Command (eastern sector) in Becora. On 26 May, the Clandestine Organisation contacted me with the request that I take on the leadership of the Organisation. I did not due to the interference of certain elements within the Organisation. In the meantime, on 10 June, 1980, the Clandestine Organisation was working in cooperation with 2 guerilla companies who at that time had resolved to launch an assault on Dili, without orders from the Commander-in-Chief and as a result of the Indonesian army's maltreatment of the population. The aim of the assault was to prove Fretilin's existence in the mountains.

The author is the only one of the three Vice-Secretaries of the Fretilin Central Committee still living, although he lost 2 brothers, Goinchet and Maki, on the day of the invasion and another brother (Rosalino, the youngest) disappeared and was presumed to have been shot along with hundreds of other youths on 10 June. More than 300 were shot, not counting those who died of hunger on Atauro island.

On 19 June, 1980, I was arrested in my home and taken to the District Military Command Mess in Mandarin. There I was tortured over a period of one month, for the purpose of extracting from me a declaration on the aims of the assault, but I always responded that I knew nothing of the plans, and neither had I received any instructions from the Fretilin Central Committee in the mountains

in connection with these plans. On 19 July of the same year, I was transferred to a cell in Comarca and was reunited with my youngest brother, Rosalino Bonaparte Soares, and another three colleagues who that very evening were taken to a place of execution. I was in Comarca for 2 months and was only given food once a day (a plate of rice with spinach soup and no drinking water for 18 months) and in October 1981, a total of 168 of the other prisoners were transferred to Atauro island, and only then was I moved to another cell where my friends David Dias Ximenes, Carlos Vaz Lai and Januario Ximenes (ex-Commandant of the UDT's anti-communist armed forces). During this time, I spent with my companions and a number of army deserters, I was fed like a human being three times a day, although I was not permitted to have visits from my family and only just prior to the visit of an ICRC mission to Comarca did I get authorisation to receive a visit from my wife and children. During the ICRC visit, I stated the truth about the way I had been treated by the Indonesian soldiers and also recounted the situation of the others who at that time were still being held in the District Military Command Mess. What I told them was roughly the following:

I was stripped naked in public and put in a tank full of water for over 16 hours. I was daily subjected to electric shocks and one of my big toes was removed without anaesthetic.

On 30 March, 1984 I was tried by a military court and sentenced to 16 years. Subsequently, on 17 May 1984, I was transferred to Cipinang prison in Jakarta and was released from there on 9 September, 1992.